

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 8
TITLE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1724; 38 CFR 17.80 and 17.83

I. DESCRIPTION

Substance abuse includes alcoholism, drug addiction, detoxification, and rehabilitation.

II. POLICY

A. Medically necessary treatment for service-connected substance abuse disorders are covered.

B. Treatment of substance use disorders must be provided in an organized substance use disorder treatment program which may include partial hospitalization programs.

C. Rehabilitation provided in a hospital or substance use disorder rehabilitation facility is covered.

D. Emergency and inpatient hospital services are covered when medically necessary for the active medical treatment of the acute phases of substance abuse withdrawal (detoxification), for stabilization, and for treatment of medical complications of substance use disorders.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Antabuse® is covered in the treatment of alcoholism.

B. Inpatient admissions for detoxification is covered if medically/psychologically necessary.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Aversion therapy. The programmed use of physical measures such as electric shock, alcohol, or other drugs (except Antabuse®) as negative reinforcement.

B. Domiciliary facilities generally referred to as halfway or quarter-way

houses.

*** END OF POLICY ***